

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 7, third full paragraph, amend lines 26-32 to read as follows:

As shown in FIG. 8 9, each of switching matrices, 60, 855, and 895 include a multiplexer/demultiplexer 900 and a register 910. Although register 910 is shown as separate from multiplexer/demultiplexer 900, multiplexer/demultiplexer 900 and register 910 could be combined in a single device. Multiplexer/demultiplexer 900 formats and receives packets sent over data link 710 and outputs parallel data to a switch 920 or an IP packet to data link 710, using, for example, a field programmable gate array. Register 910 stores a value that indicates the maximum channel number in the packet.